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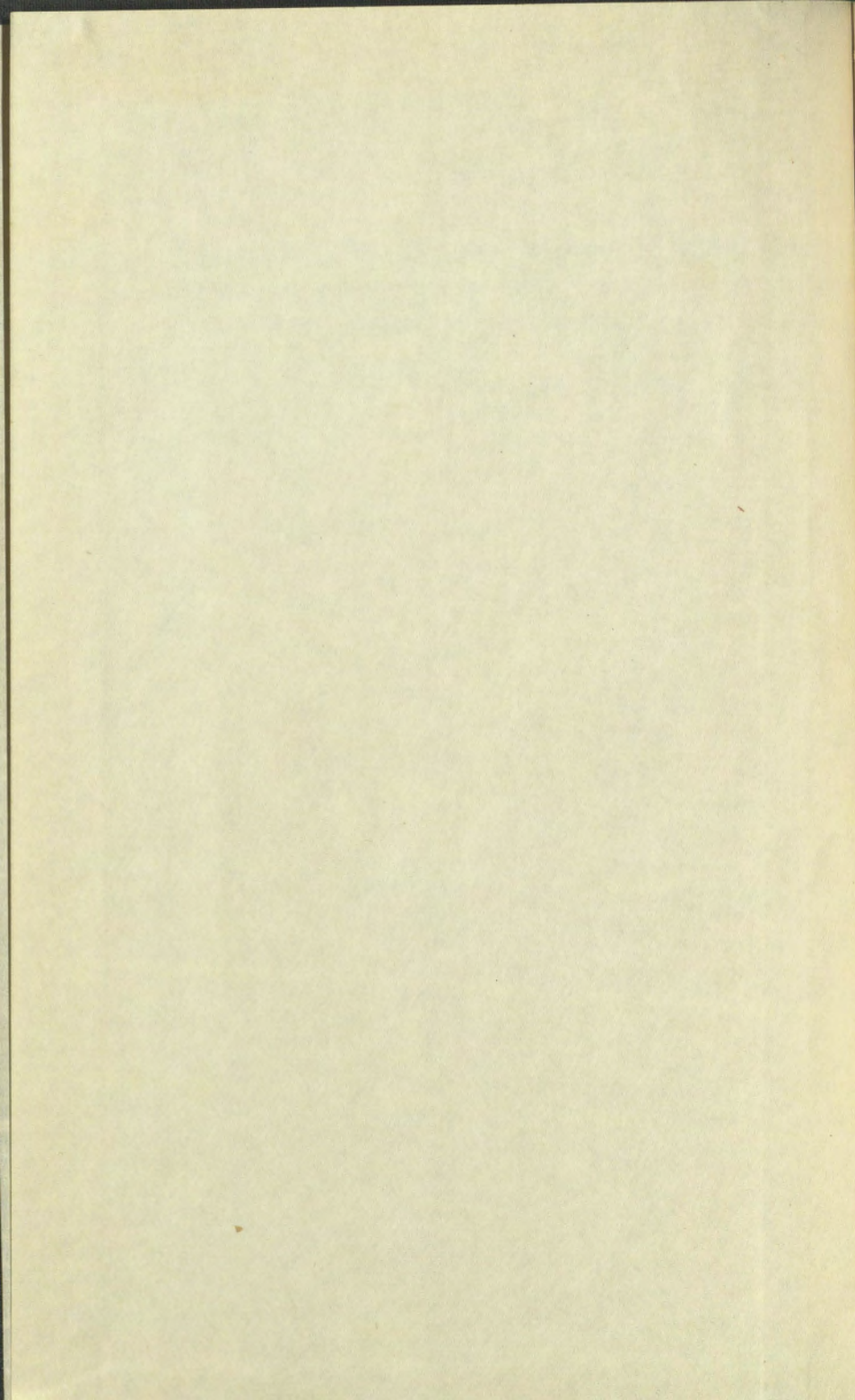
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FLORIDA STATE LIBRARY

PLAN OF

ORGANIZATION

OF THE

CONSERVATIVE-DEMOCRATIC PARTY

OF FLORIDA

FOR THE

CAMPAIGN OF 1876.

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HEADQUARTERS  
STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, }  
TALLAHASSEE, July 22, 1876.

*To the County Executive Committees of the Conservative-Democratic Party of Florida:*

It is scarcely necessary for us to suggest to you the paramount importance to our people of a successful issue to the political canvass on which we have now entered. To ensure success, we must have thorough, systematic and efficient organization. With this, and an earnest determination on the part of our people to succeed, there can be no doubt as to the result. Organize without delay. Let every house and settlement in your county be visited. See that every man who is in sympathy with us is registered, and not one vote is lost to our candidates in November next. It is not whether we *can*, but whether we *will* restore our State and National Government to honest hands. Rouse your people from their apathy. Tell them that they are toiling for the tax-gatherer and to satisfy the insatiable appetite of the Radical office-holders, who are feeding upon their substance. The merchant can well afford to leave his merchandise upon the shelf, and the farmer his ploughshare idle in the field, in order to make one earnest, manly, united effort to elect pure and honest men to administer our National Government.

The people neither realize the necessity for action, nor their own power to accomplish the change. Let it be impressed vigorously upon them, and you will not find them slow to respond to your appeal.

We invite you to communicate with us freely on all matters relating to the canvass, or of interest to the party; such information or aid as this Committee can command will be at all times cheerfully given. We hand you a simple but effective plan of organization, which is respectfully commended to your attention.

S. PASCO,

*Chairman State Executive Committee,*

E. C. LOVE,

*Chairman Dist. Ex. Com., 1st Con. Dist.*

J. J. DANIEL,

*Chairman Dist. Ex. Com., 2d Con. Dist.*

## PLAN OF ORGANIZATION OF THE CONSERVATIVE-DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF FLORIDA FOR THE CAMPAIGN OF 1876.

1st. The County Executive Committees are the centres of organization and influence; upon them devolves the labor and responsibility of putting the details of this system into operation. If no such committee exists there should be one appointed at the first County Convention or Mass Meeting held in the county. The State Committee will appoint a temporary committee to act *ad interim* whenever requested, provided the circumstances of the case render such a course advisable.

2d. As soon as practicable after its appointment, the County Committee should complete its own organization by selecting a Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer, and report the organization, with the Post-office address of the Chairman, to Robert Gamble, Secretary of State Executive Committee at Tallahassee.

3d. During the canvass the Committee should have some place designated as their headquarters, at which they should meet on stated days—say every two weeks or oftener, to take measures for the interests of the party.

4th. There should be a record kept by the Secretary for reference of all orders and acts of the Committee. The Treasurer should keep an account of all sums received and disbursed by him.

5th. The County should be divided into districts with well-defined boundaries, and for each district there should be appointed a sub-committee.

6th. Sub-committees should consist of not less than three (3) nor more than five (5) electors, resident in the district, selected by the County Committee for their zeal, discretion and influence, one of whom should be named as Chairman.

7th. It should be the duty of the sub-committee to see that every Conservative-Democratic voter in their district is duly registered, and that no one who will cast a Conservative-Democratic vote is absent from the polls on the day of election.



8th. In order that no vote be lost to our candidates, and no Radical vote fraudulently polled, an accurate census should be taken of the voters in each district. This can be effected with but little effort, if the sub-committees will divide their districts into convenient "neighborhoods," and assign each of these to some one person, whose duty it shall be to procure such information, either by visiting each settlement or family, or from other reliable sources as will enable them to prepare an accurate list of all persons within the limits assigned them who are duly qualified voters, noting carefully the name, residence, color and politics of each, in columns as indicated in the form attached hereto. If any doubt exists as to the qualification of a registered man it should be carefully noted on the list.

Name.	Registered		Color.		Party.		Residence.	Disqualification and why.	Remarks.
	Yes.	No.	White	Col.	Con	Rad D.			
								Not 21. Convicted of Larceny. Removed from Ga. in Jan. Just from — Co.	
Total.									

9th. The persons entrusted with the duty of taking this census should endeavor to register *every man* who will vote our ticket, and if any who are in political sympathy with us decline to register, they should be at once reported to the sub-committee in order that all possible influence may be brought to bear to induce them to discharge their duty in this respect.

[NOTE.—It will be borne in mind that the registration books are closed by law six days before the day of election.]

10th. These lists of voters should be completed at least 30 days before the election, and copies sent to the Secretary of the County Committee, who will have them carefully revised and compared, note such persons as are disqualified, with the cause of disqualification, and see that they are put into the hands of challengers at the proper polls on the morning of the day of the election. The County Committees will, as soon as they have the necessary information, communi-

cate to the Secretary of the State Committee at Tallahassee the results of the census taken in their counties, which can best be done by answering the following questions:

How many registered voters are there in your county?

How many persons who are qualified have failed to register?

How many whites are there in the county, registered and unregistered, who are qualified to vote?

How many colored men, registered and unregistered, who are qualified to vote?

How many persons are on the registration lists who are not qualified to vote? How many of these are white? How many colored.

What is the estimated vote of the county as taken from the precinct returns?

11th. The original list will be retained by the Chairman of the sub-committee for future information and use. The sub-committee will apportion among its own members and such other active and discreet persons as are willing to aid them, the Conservative-Democratic voters in their districts, assigning ten or more to each. These persons will be designated and known as leaders or captains of tens, and upon them will devolve the duty of seeing that every man on their lists who will deposit the right ballot is registered and brought to the polls without possibility of failure.

12th. The County Committee should carefully examine the Registration Lists, prepare a roll of such voters as have been stricken off the list since the last election, and forward copies thereof to each of the sub-committees in order that such Conservative-Democratic voters as have been improperly stricken off may be re-registered during the period prescribed by law.

13th. They should also examine the Court Records and prepare a list of such persons as are disqualified by reason of conviction for "felony, bribery, perjury, larceny, or other infamous crime;" to which should be added all persons whose names appear upon the Registration Lists improperly, either from death, removal or other cause of disqualification.

14th. Should any person whose name appears on this "disqualified" list have removed to another county, his name should be at once communicated to the Secretary of the State Committee, and also to the Chairman of the Committee



of the county to which he has removed, with the date of his removal and grounds of disqualification, in order that his vote may be challenged at the polls.

15th. All such disqualified persons, with the specific ground of disqualification, should be carefully noted on the "list of votes," to be placed in the hands of the challengers at every precinct on the day of election.

16th. Preparatory to the election, there should be challengers appointed by the County Committee for each precinct—persons thoroughly acquainted with the voters throughout the county, and more particularly at the polls, where they are to act. Upon these challengers, with the aid of the lists furnished them by the County Committee, and such other information as they may obtain, will devolve the duty of seeing that no illegal vote is polled, and that we are not deprived by accident or fraud of any ballot which would be cast for our ticket.

17th. Contributions to defray the expenses of the canvass should be solicited through the sub-committees, and all funds thus raised should be placed in the hands of the Treasurer to be paid out on the order of the Chairman of the County Committee.

18th. The formation of clubs in each district will be found in admirable auxiliary to the work. Let the Chairman of your Committee be the President of your Club. Call it the Drew and Hull, Tilden and Hendricks, Reform, Conservative-Democratic, or some other suitable name, adding, perhaps, some local or other particular designation.

19th. Admit to these clubs all young men from 17 years old upwards; those who are too young to vote make splendid working material, and they will be found useful and efficient in looking up the non-registered during the campaign; in writing up lists of votes and other necessary work.

20th. Every effort should be made to reduce the number of non-registered. If any are without horses and live remote from the Court-House, help them to get there; fix up a registration team and let it make trips enough to carry every voter who is with us in sentiment, and means to vote for our candidate. In some places it may be practicable to employ a Clerk or Deputy to visit remote parts of the county to register voters. This matter of registration is the first and great work of the party; when it is completed,

and during its progress all proper efforts should be made to gain strength from the other side. For his purpose, proclaim the excellence of our platform, the high character of our candidates, and the advantages and blessings that will follow a Conservative-Democratic triumph both in the State and country at large.

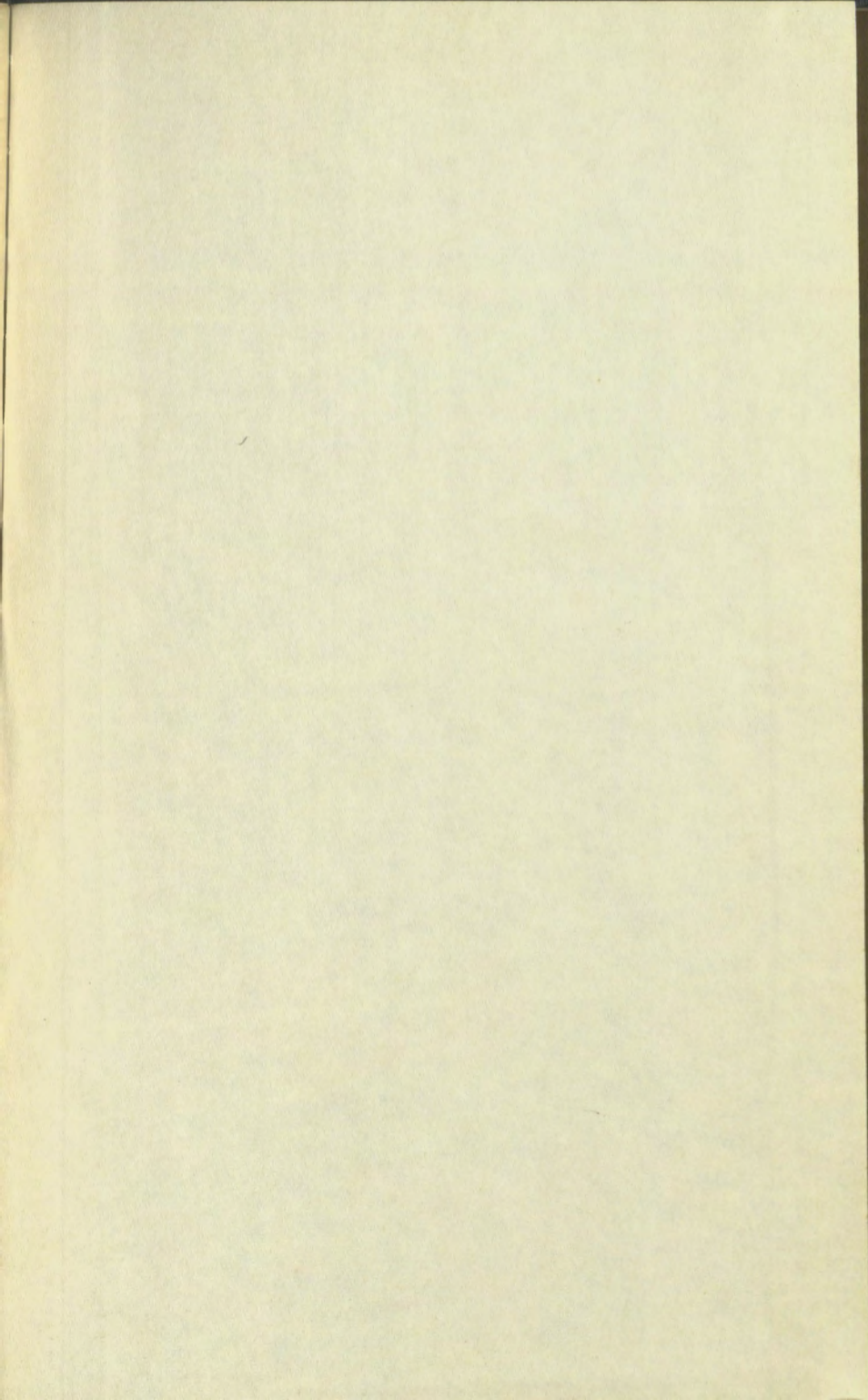
21st. Let every exertion be made to keep up a living interest in the Club meetings; keep the ~~member~~ at work; let each one feel that he is useful; have speeches and essays read at every meeting by members and visitors; send delegations to visit other clubs; let them report what they saw and heard; invite similar visits; make these gatherings sociable and fraternal; carry baskets along and get the ladies interested.

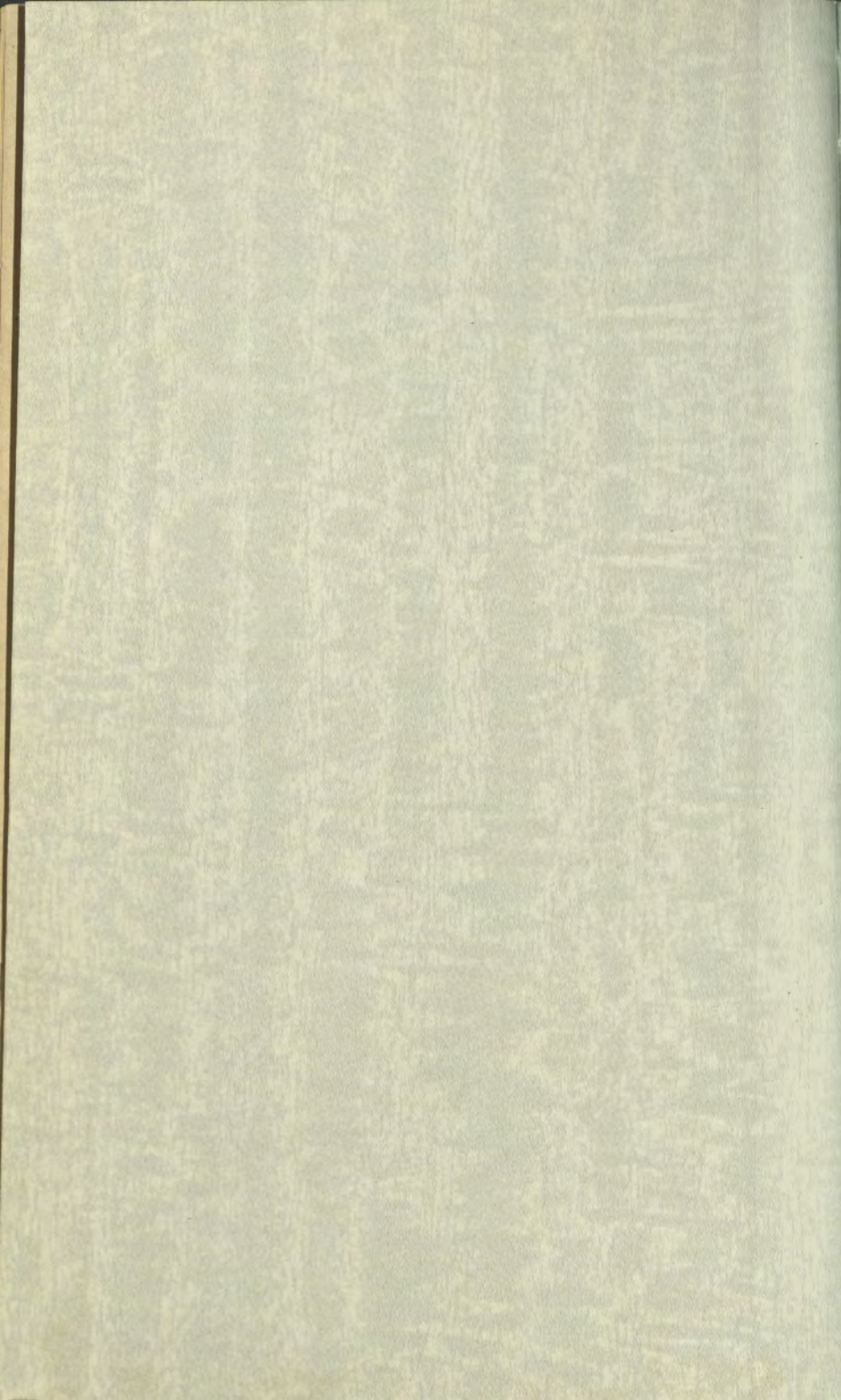
22d. Have an aggressive, good-natured, enthusiastic campaign; have torches and transparencies, flags and banners, speech-making and music, at these gatherings, and never lose sight of the main objects; register the voters make converts to the cause of Reform.

[NOTE.—Full instruction will in due time be prepared and sent to the County Committees on all points connected with the appointment of inspectors, organization of the polls, challengers, and everything pertaining to the conduct of the election and the proper counting and return of the votes.]

Members









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